

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

From the following article, which we copy from the Washington Union of the 25th inst., it will be seen that intense excitement prevails at the seat of government on the slavery question; and that an important meeting was held by the Southern members on the subject, in the Senate chamber, on last Friday evening, to take the proper steps in defense of Southern rights. This disturbance of the harmony of the House has grown out of Mr. Gott's instructions to the District Committee to report a bill prohibiting the slave trade in the District of Columbia. The Southern members have acted with coolness and deliberation, and the character of their proceedings, so far as we are enabled to judge from the reports we have seen, foreshadows much firmness and determination, to resist every attempt of the fanatics upon our sacred rights. We are proud to see that party politics are laid aside by the Southern members in this important matter, and that both Democrat and Whig are found acting in concert and harmony with each other. But to the extract:—

THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Shortly after the passage of the resolution by the House of Representatives, without necessity, instructing the Committee on Territories to report to the House, with as little delay as practicable, a bill excluding slavery from New Mexico and California—without necessity, for the same committee had reported a similar bill at the last session, in the absence of instructions; and the majority had thus shown an impatience to manifest its hostility to the rights of the South, and its opposition to the constitution; and when it was proposed by the motion to lay on the table the bill, Mr. Giddings, providing for taking the sense not only of the free negroes, but of the slaves also, upon the question whether slavery should exist in the District of Columbia, against which seventy-seven votes were given—the Southern members had a meeting to consult as to what steps the rights of their constituents require them to take. At this meeting a committee was appointed to consult with the members of the House upon the subject.

Upon the passage of the resolution by the House of Representatives of Mr. Gott, by a vote of 98 to 85, instructing the Committee to report a bill, as soon as practicable, prohibiting the buying or selling of slaves in this District, the committee of the Senate saw that the time to act had arrived to avert the mischief which was impending. Upon a few hours' notice they called a meeting of the Southern delegation in the two Houses of Congress, without respect of party.

On the night before last the meeting was held in the Senate chamber. Considering the shortness of the notice, and the near approach of the holiday-days, when members were winding their way home, the meeting was remarkably full. We learn there were sixty-eight senators and representatives present. Fifteen of the city were absent from unavoidable circumstances, and were represented by friends in the meeting; and most of the rest were absent from the city. Several members who had delayed to leave Washington for their homes delayed their departure to attend the meeting.

The details of the proceedings of the meeting have not transpired; and we understand that they will not until they are officially published. We learn, however, that Gen. Metcalf, a senator from Kentucky, was called to the chair; Mr. Venable of North Carolina, appointed vice president; Mr. Atchison of Missouri, first vice president; and Gov. Gayle of Alabama, second vice president.

After the organization, Gen. Bayly of Virginia was called upon by Gen. Foote, one of the Senate committee, to explain the object of the meeting, and to present a series of resolutions, the basis of action, in accordance with the request of that committee, he had prepared. Mr. Stephens of Georgia moved to refer them to a select committee, composed of one member from each of the slaveholding States, which should take charge of the whole subject, and report to a future meeting, appointed to be held the 15th of January. We regret that we are unable to procure a copy of Gen. Bayly's resolutions. They will not be published until the official proceedings are published to the world. We learn they are of a firm and decided, but conciliatory character. They ask nothing for the South but that its rights should be respected; but they express a firm determination to defend and protect these rights at all hazards, as the only means of preserving the Union. Strong approbation, as we are told, was expressed of them by the meeting.

We understand that there was great harmony, and in the final resolution which was adopted there was perfect unanimity. We repeat, as a friend of the Union—as an American—as a friend of political liberty throughout the world—we beg the mad fanatics who would, thus early in its voyage, wreck the ark of human liberty, to pause?—let them not be deceived. The unanimity of the representatives will be respected to by the people of the South. They will commit a fatal mistake, if they draw such conclusions as we have heretofore adverted to, from the result of the presidential election. Our devotion to the Union cannot be doubted. It has too often, and on too many trying occasions, been tested. But, in the language of a former Senator from New York, there is a point beyond which South American forbearance cannot go. If it is expected that we will reverse the Union, it must be by the use of force, and not by the use of words.

We should be much obliged if our political friends of the press in the South would tell us in brief, how many, if any, of General Taylor's friends in the recent canvass, in their respective capacities, advocated the restoration of the Tariff of 1842, or the repeal of the Tariff of 1846? We have heard some queer stories about the Tariff decisions of the Southern Whigs, and the exposure would do us essential service, now that the Pennsylvania protectionists want to prove that if they fail to fulfill their promises, it will be the fault of the Democrats.—*Pennsylvanian.*

We heard a number of Whig, or Taylor, speeches during the last canvass, in which of which we heard the "restoration of the Tariff of 1842, or the repeal of the Tariff of 1846" advocated. Those questions were not introduced into the canvass, in these parts, by the friends of Gen. Taylor, so far as we have any knowledge or belief. The Whig position was a question, however, was discussed with much ability and earnestness, and the Whig argument in favor of Taylor's election was that, upon that question, he was much the most reliable man for the South.

Petersburg Republican.

We speak for this section, of North Carolina, and answer the *Pennsylvanian* in the language of the *Petersburg Republican*, which is fully applicable to this vicinity.

For the Journal.

MR. EDITOR, Sir:—As the election for Commissioners of the Town is close at hand, I would recommend the following as a suitable ticket to be voted for at the ensuing election:—

A CITIZEN.

JAS. T. MILLER.
JOHN C. BOWDEN.
THOS. C. MILLER.
L. H. MARSTELLER.
JNO. DAWSON.
G. W. DAVIS.
J. D. GARDNER.

Maj. Gen. Gaines has received orders from the President to repair to the Western Division of the Army, to be ready to assume the command of it whenever Major General Taylor's resignation shall create a vacancy there.

JOHN W. ELLIS, Esq., recently elected one of the Judges of the Superior Court, by the Legislature, of which body he was a member, has resigned his seat, and a writ of election for to-morrow, (Saturday,) has been issued to supply the vacancy.

DIVISION ORDERS No. 1.

Head Quarters 6th Division No. Ca. Militia, WILMINGTON, 27th Dec., 1848.

The following appointments having been made by the Major General, and the persons therein named duly commissioned by the Governor, all officers and soldiers attached to said Division are hereby required to yield them ready obedience, viz:

Division Inspector, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, WILLIAM N. PEDER.

Quartermaster General, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, THOMAS C. McLENNAN.

Aid-de-Camps, with the rank of Major, GILFORD L. DUDLEY and NICHOLAS F. NIXON.

By order of
L. H. MARSTELLER, Maj. Gen.

DIVISION ORDERS No. 2.

Head Quarters 6th Division No. Ca. Militia, WILMINGTON, 28th Dec., 1848.

The officers composing the Major General's Staff are hereby ordered to appear in uniform, and mounted, at the quarters of the Major General, at 10 o'clock, A. M., on Monday, the 8th day of January next, to unite with the Clergymen, House Guards and the citizens, in the presentation of a sword to our highly esteemed fellow-citizen, Col. Gaston Meares.

By order of
L. H. MARSTELLER, Maj. Gen.

G. L. DUDLEY, { Aids.
N. F. NIXON, }

(The Field Officers of any Regiment attached to said Division are respectfully invited to join us.)

UNITED STATES SENATE.

The following is a correct estimate, or nearly so, of the strength of parties in the Senate, after the 4th of March, 1849—the opening of Gen. Taylor's administration:—

1851	1852	1853	1854	1855
1856	1857	1858	1859	1860
1861	1862	1863	1864	1865
1866	1867	1868	1869	1870
1871	1872	1873	1874	1875
1876	1877	1878	1879	1880
1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
1886	1887	1888	1889	1890
1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
1896	1897	1898	1899	1900

GEN. TAYLOR'S CABINET.

We have at length (says the *Baltimore Sun*), from Gen. Taylor's own hand the basis upon which the Cabinet will be organized, though no knowledge as to the particular individuals who will compose it. The New York Courier of Thursday, gives the following extract of a letter from Gen. Taylor to a gentleman in that city, Gen. T. under date of Dec. 7th, having complied with the solicitation to make it public:

BATON ROUGE, March 2d, 1848.

"If elected, I shall endeavor to organize my Cabinet in such a manner as to secure a fair and enlightened representation about me of all the great interests of the country; and as far as practicable, to represent all sections of the Union. If constructed upon such principles, it seems to me that the people should be satisfied; and I believe that such would be the case."

With regard to public curiosity as to the material of the Cabinet, the Courier asserts that "it will not be gratified until the 4th of March or thereafter"—and adds:

"We are not speaking at random in this regard, but weigh the full force of our language when we say, that neither at Washington nor elsewhere, are General Taylor's intentions in regard to his Cabinet, known. He need not act in advance of the time when action is necessary, nor will he promulgate his intentions until he has satisfied himself of all the time allowed him to render those intentions wise and discreet—the offspring of all the reflection and all the knowledge which time and opportunity can furnish."

MR. STEVENSON was re-elected President of the Board.—*Charleston News.*

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate:—
Joseph Lane, of Indiana, Governor of Oregon, in the place of James Shields, declined.

Charles McLean, Attorney of the United States, in the place of Benjamin F. Butler, removed.

Pierre Auguste Bertrand, melter and refiner of the branch mint at New Orleans, in the place of John M. Riddell, removed.

COUNTING-HOUSE ALMANAC, FOR 1849.

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